

Ordered by Perry

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES

SATURDAY, October 14th, 1854.

The delegates from the churches, visiting Ministers, and a large number of brethren and friends, met at the Pilgrim's Rest Church, Perry county, Ala., being the thirty-seventh anniversary meeting of the Cahaba Association. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder A. G. McCRAW, from Galatians, v, 1: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

After preaching and a short recess, the delegates assembled in the meeting house. Elder J. H. DeVotie, former Moderator, and Elder J. E. Sumner, former Clerk, being present, took their seats and presided until the election of a Moderator and Clerk.

The Association was opened with prayer by Elder W. S. Barton.

Then proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk. Elder A. G. McCRAW was elected Moderator, and brother William S. Miree, Clerk; and took their seats.

Opened the door for the reception of churches, and received Macedonia Church, Greene county, Alabama, and Uniontown Church, Perry county, Alabama; and the right hand of fellowship was extended to their delegates.

Upon motion, brother J. B. Vaiden, delegate from Uniontown Church, was excused for the remainder of the session. Brother J. F. Bailey, delegate from Shoam, was excused for the remainder of the session.

Upon motion, Elder Joseph Walker, Corresponding Secretary of the Southern Domestic Mission Board, being present, was cordially invited to take a seat with us, and to participate in our deliberations.

Letters from the churches were then called for, presented and read; delegates' names enrolled, and letters referred to the Committee on Documents.

Correspondence from sister Associations was called for, and extended the hand of fellowship to their representatives, and cordially invited them to seats with us.

The standing Committees were appointed, viz:

On Preaching—Brethren W. T. Hendon, George Hopper, W. A. Melton, E. E. Trammell, together with the Pastor and Deacons of Pilgrim's Rest Church.

On the Order of Business—Elder John E. Sumner, C. J. Crews, H. P. Griffin, and, on motion, the Moderator and Clerk were added.

On Finance—Brethren J. E. Prestridge, D. Hogue and J. B. Nave.

On Education—Elder R. Holman, J. Walker, H. Talbird, W. Wilkes.

On Domestic Missions—Elders A. G. McCraw, J. H. DeVotie, J. S. Ford and J. Walker.

On Temperance—Elder W. Wilkes and brethren B. F. Boling, W. T. Hendon, J. Kinard.

On Foreign Missions—Elders H. Talbird, J. Dennis and brethren J. Hendon, W. Nunelly.

On Sabbath Schools—Elders F. M. Law, H. P. Griffin, C. J. Crews and brother William A. Melton.

On Instruction of the Blacks—Elders J. S. Ford, J. Dennis and brethren W. T. Hendon W. S. Miree, J. E. I restridge.

On Indian Missions—Elders J. H. DeVotie, W. S. Barton and brethren W. M. McCollough, George Hopper.

On Southern Publication Society—Elder J. E. Sumner and brethren A. Ford, G. W. Blakey, Alfred Muckle.

On Bible Cause—Elders W. S. Barton, W. Wilkes, J. Dennis, F. M. Law. Brother Wm. N. Wyatt was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Called for Correspondence from sister Associations. See Table of Correspondence.

Returned Correspondence to sister Associations. See Table of Correspondence.

Resolved, That the delegates to the Mulberry and Autauga Associations are requested to attend the Convention of the two Associations to meet with the Ebenezer Church, Friday before the second Sunday in July next.

Upon motion, a Committee on Documents were appointed. Elders J. H. DeVotie, F. M. Law and brother A. P. Johnson were appointed.

Report of the Committee on Preaching—Elder R. Holman to preach the missionary sermon of Sunday morning at 11 o'clock; Elder J. H. DeVotie to preach at the stand at 1 o'clock, P. M.; Elder H. P. Griffin to preach to the blacks at the old Church House at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and Elder Jabez Brassell to preach a sermon to the blacks at the old Church House at 1 o'clock, P. M. Adopted.

Upon motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by Elder John Dennis.

SABBATH, October 15th, 1854.

Pursuant to arrangement, Elder R. Holman preached on the subject of Missions, to a large and attentive congregation, which was responded to by the audience by casting into the treasury of the Lord quite as freely as could be expected. After recess, Elder J. H. DeVotie preached an interesting discourse to a large and attentive congregation. Elders H. P. Griffin and Jabez Brassell preached to the blacks at the old Church House, according to appointment. The day was truly profitably and pleasantly spent, and no doubt that its privileges and benefits will be had in remembrance in the great day of eternity.

MONDAY, October 16th, 1854.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. H. DeVotie. Called for the report of the Committee of Arrangement of Business. Report read. adopted and committee discharged.

Re. J. D. Williams, Agent of the Alabama Baptist State Bible Society, being present, was cordially invited to a seat with us, and to participate in our deliberations.

Then proceeded to call the names of delegates, and mark absentees in their several districts.

1st District.

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Delegates.</i>
Bibb	Bethell,	James Mason, Benj. Little, Jno. M. Brown.

Bibb,	Mt. Zion,	Elders H. P. Griffin, Jas. W. McCollough, H. G. Sneed.
Perry,	Hepsaba,	John C. Veadle, D. J. Muse, Jas. A. Daniel.
"	Pisgah,	Wm. A. Melton, G. W. Blakey, Wm. S. Miree, Richard Farrar.
"	Pilgrim's Rest,	Wm. M. McCollough, Absolam Ford, Da- vid Gentry.
"	Friendship,	Elijah Smith.
<i>2d District.</i>		
"	Oakmulgee,	Soloman Smith, Geo. Hopper, Jos. W. W. Crow, A. P. Johnson, O. H. Perry.
"	Shiloh,	E. Shearer, Isaac Thomas, John Bailey.
"	Providence,	Thos. Turnbow, Wylie T. Boothe.
"	Mt. Edon,	Jacob Kinard, T. B. Lester.
"	Concord,	F. L. Edwards, Jas. M. Watters, George W. Watters, B. F. Boling, E. G. Lankford.
Dallas,	Liberty,	Elder John Dennis and bro. Willis Nunelly.
"	Selma,	Elders A. G. McCraw, W. Wilkes, F. M. Law & bro. J. E. Prestridge, A. Muckle.
Perry,	Fellowship,	Vincent Pearson.
"	Pine Flat,	D. P. Kinard.
<i>3d District.</i>		
"	Fellowship, B. C.,	E. E. Trammel, Thomas Curb, J. H. Smith, James K. Hammons, B. Brand.
"	Siloam,	Jas. F. Bailey, J. B. Nave, M. W. Oliver.
"	Mt. Pleasant,	Elder J. S. Ford and brethren M. Phillips, Thomas H. Nelms.
"	Sardia,	Carter Tubb, Robert A. Scott, R. H. Wolley.
"	Hopewell,	Elder J. H. DeVotie and breth. S. B. Pleas- ants, D. Hogue.
"	Union,	Elder C. J. Cruse and bro. G. H. Kearse.
"	Uniontown,	J. B. Vaiden.
Greene,	Antioch,	John Frazier, Wm. Sparks.
Mobile,	African Bap. Ch.,	Not represented.
<i>4th District.</i>		
Greene,	Salem,	Not represented.
Tuscaloosa,	Mt. Pleasant,	Elder John E. Sumner and brethren Wm A. Bishop, E. M. Buck.
Greene,	Newbern,	Wm. T. Hendon, J. R. Hendon.
"	Bethsiada,	James E. Stringfellow.
"	Mt. Hebron,	R. Z. Woods.
"	Macedonia,	John T. Bird.
Perry,	New Hope,	A. J. Russell, E. W. Davis.

Upon motion, brethren J. E. Prestridge, George Hopper, Thomas Turnbow and J. Kinard, were appointed a Committee on Nominations. Called for reports of standing committees.

Report of the Executive Committee—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix A.

Report on Southern Publication Society—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix B.

Report on Temperance—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix C.

Report on Sunday Schools—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix D.

Report on Nominations—The committee reported Elder John Dennis to preach the introductory sermon—Elder John S. Ford, alternate; Elder H. Talbird, to preach the missionary sermon on Sabbath—Elder W. Wilkes, Alternate.

Report on Bible Cause—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix E.

Upon motion, by J. H. DeVotie, all business was suspended, there being a verbal communication of the unfortunate and painful circumstance of the destruction of the Howard College by fire, and bodily injury received by many of the students. Upon said announcement being made, there were immediately \$2,231 raised in cash and subscriptions. Upon motion, Rev. J. H. DeVotie was appointed agent to solicit contributions, in the bounds of the Association, to aid in rebuilding said college; which was accepted.

Report on Documents—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix F.

Report on Domestic Missions—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix G.

Report on Religious Instruction of the Blacks—Read, adopted and committee discharged. Appendix H.

There being no report from the committees on Foreign or Indian Missions, and Education.

Upon motion, an Executive Committee of five Brethren were appointed, viz: Elders J. H. DeVotie, Joseph Walker and brethren J. B. Nave, Joseph A. Blakey and Wm. A. Melton.

Called for resolutions and other business.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, the traffic and use of alcoholic drinks, as a beverage, is demoralizing in its tendency, opposed to the spirit of the gospel, and inconsistent with the true character of church members.

Resolved, That the Ministers belonging to this Association be requested to preach a sermon on Temperance, to their respective congregations, at their regular meetings in July next. Adopted.

Resolved, That the Pastors of churches in this Association be requested to preach a Bible sermon, and take up a collection in aid of the Bible Cause, and send it up to the Alabama Baptist Bible Society at the meeting of the Convention in December next; which was adopted, and responded to by the members of the Association by contributions to the amount of \$57,60.

Resolved, That \$20 of the Association fund be paid to the Clerk for printing the Minutes, and the balance be passed over to the Domestic Mission Board, S. B. Convention, for the Colored Mission in the Cahaba Association. Adopted.

16. *Resolved*, That the next session of this Association be held with the Hopewell Church, Perry County, commencing Friday before the third Lord's day in October, 1855.

Resolved, That all funds on hand for Domestic and Foreign Missions be passed directly to the Boards of the S. B. Convention, having the direction of those Missions in charge. Adopted.

Resolved, That this Association appoint the place of holding its annual sessions without regard to the Old District plan. The prime motive in selecting the place of holding its sessions shall be the good of the cause of God, and that it meet on Friday before the third Sabbath in October. Adopted.

Resolved, That we do now appoint delegates to the Bi-ennial Convention. Adopted. Elders John Dennis, C. J. Crews, W. Wilks, John S. Ford, A. G. McCraw, H. P. Griffin, and brethren Wm. A. Melton, Joseph A. Blakey F. M. Law, Wm T. Hendon, J. E. Prestridge, Wm. S. Miree, M. W. Oliver, E. E. Trammil.

Resolved, That we do now appoint delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Adopted. Elders H. P. Griffin, Jas. W. McCullough, J. E. Sumner, F. M. Law, and brethren Geo. H. Kearse, B. Brand, Geo. Hopper, E. Shearer, Benj. F. Boling, W. Nunelly.

Dear brethren, after a deliberate consideration of the destitution of churches of the Cahaba Association, and especially on the East side of Cahaba River there are eight or nine churches without any preacher. Where we were well supplied a few years ago brings us to enquire for the cause, and our conviction is that we have not appreciated those blessings, and have not discharged our duty towards them as God's ministers.

Resolved, therefore, That we would recommend to this Association, and all the churches composing this body, to endeavor to let their united cries reach a throne of God's grace, that he would send more laborers to those destitute places; and we would recommend our brethren, as many of them as can find a place in their hearts, to will a portion of their estate to the church where their membership is, the interest, to be paid over annually to their pastor for his support. All of which is respectfully submitted. Adopted. Submitted by Wm. A. Melton.

Report on Finance, adopted, and committee discharged. [Appendix J.] Treasurer's Report under same head.

Resolved, That the abstract of Faith be published with the Minutes.—Adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be returned to the citizens of this neighborhood for their kindness and hospitality. Adopted.

Resolved, That H. Talbird is hereby appointed to write the Letter of Correspondence to Sister Associations, to be published with the Minutes.—Adopted.

In conformity with the usages of this Association the Moderator proceeded to appoint the Chairman of the different Committees to report at the next annual meeting of the same. On Education, Elder R. Holman; on Domestic Missions, Elder J. Walker; on Temperance, W. T. Hendon; on Foreign Missions, Elder W. Wikes; on Sabbath Schools, Elder H. Talbird; on Indian Missions, Elder F. M. Law; on Southern Publication Society, Elder J. H. De Votie; on Bible Cause, Elder J. S. Ford.

Resolved, That Elder J. H. De Votie and brethren J. F. Bailey and J. B. Nave be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to examine the manuscript of the Clerk before printing. Adopted.

The Association having disposed of all the business before it, a hymn was

sung, prayer was offered by the Moderator, Elder A. G. McCraw, the parting hand was given with joyful hope, that if we should meet no more in this world to enjoy each others society again in such heavenly places here below we will meet again in that world where parting shall be no more,

A. G. McCRAW, *Moderator.*

WILLIAM S. MIREE, *Clerk.*

N. B. The report on Foreign Missions was handed in to the Clerk, and is hereunto appended.

TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence Received.

Associations.	Documents.	Messengers.	Moderators.	Clerks.
Alabama.	Letter.		David Lee.	T. Lyon.
Tusealoosa.	Letter.	J. P. Thompson.	R. Dodson.	M. D. J. Slade.
Shelby.	Let. and Min.	Elder N. Haggard.	T P. Holcomb.	J. W. Teaguc.
Bethel.	Let. and Min.	Elder J. Talbert.	A. A. Connella.	I. B. Vaiden.
Mulberry.	Let. and Min.	J. Brussell.	W. L. Cochran.	W. R. Gandy.
Autauga.	Let. and Min.		A. Andrews.	J. J. Lamar.

Returned.

Alabama.	Let. and Min.	Elders W. Wilkes, Jos. Walker, A. G. McCraw, J. II. De Votie, and Bro. E. Shearer.
Tuscaloosa.	Let. and Min.	Elders Joseph Walker, W. S. Barton, J. E. Sumner, F. M. Law.
Shelby.	Let. and Min.	Elders H. Talbird, J. II. De Votie, C. J. Crews, A. G. McCraw, F. M. Law, George Hopper.
Bethel.	Let. and Min.	Elders J. II. De Votie, H. Talbird, L. L. Fox.
Mulberry.	Let. and Min.	Elders A. G. McCraw, H. P. Griffin, J. H. De Votie, H. Talbird, W. Wilkes, F. M. Law, and Bro. E. Shearer and Wm. A. Melton.
Autauga.	Let. and Min.	Elders A. G. McCraw, H. Talbird, H. P. Grif-J. II. De Votie, W. Wilkes, F. M. Law, and Bro. E. Shearer and Wm. A. Melton.
Union.	Let. and Min.	Elder Jos. Walker and Bro. A. Ford.
Pine Barron.	Let. and Min.	By Letter and state the cause of no Delegates.

APPENDIX.

[4] REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Immediately after the adjournment of the last session of the Association the Executive Board met in Marion and, according to instruction, proceeded to appoint two missionaries to preach to the colored people in the bounds of this body, at a salary of \$400 each, for one half of their time.

Rev. R. Holman declined; Rev. John S. Ford accepted, and with great zeal and success has prosecuted his work. The following report for three quarters has been received, to which we invite the attention of the Association:

REPORT.

We earnestly recommend the continuance of this mission; deeply impressed with the conviction that our duty in this work is second to no other benevolent enterprise on earth.

The Treasurer of the Board reports three hundred and sixty-seven dollars cash, and subscriptions to meet the expenses of this mission the past year.

We recommend, as the most economical and successful manner of conducting this work, to act through the Domestic Mission Board of the S. B. Convention. The Executive Board of the Association to nominate the missionaries to labor within our bounds. Said missionaries to make reports quarterly to the Southern Board, which is to receive and disburse all of our funds for Domestic Missions as directed by our Board.

Bro. Joseph A. Blakey has paid to our Treasurer, J. B. Nave, \$514.35, principle and interest, the amount pledged by him at the last meeting of the Association to create a permanent missionary fund, the interest to be paid annually, and equally divided between Domestic and Foreign Missions. This amount has been upon interest since its reception on July 5th, 1854. It is incumbent upon the Association to provide for the safe loaning of this fund so as to meet the views of its liberal donors.

Bro. W. A. Melton desires a change of direction of the \$500 pledged by him for the same purpose. In accordance with his request we recommend that the alteration proposed be made, so that all the annual interest of his donation shall be expended in supporting a mission to the destitute churches and neighborhoods within our bounds.

To perfect these views we offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Domestic Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention be requested to appoint Rev. J. S. Ford as missionary to the Blacks in our bounds, upon the terms of auxiliary relationship proposed in the above report.

Resolved, That the cash and subscriptions in the hands of the Executive Board be passed over to the Domestic Mission Board, S. B. Convention to defray the expense of Bro. Ford's mission, for which credit is to be given to the Cahaba Association.

By request of brothers Joseph A. Blakey and W. A. Melton, the donors of all the Association fund, amounting to \$1000 principal,

Resolved, That the Domestic Mission Board, S. B. C., be requested to accept this fund in trust, to be loaned and safely secured, the interest only to be expended annually. Seven hundred and fifty being for Domestic Missions in our bounds, and two hundred and fifty for Foreign Missions, the annual interest to be applied through the Foreign Mission Board of the S. B. Convention. This fund to be known by the name of Permanent Mission Fund of Cahaba Association.

[B] REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTHERN PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

The committee on the Southern Publication Society make the following report :

That they know but little of the present condition or operations of that Society, but are assured that an institution of that kind, well conducted, would be of abundant utility to our denomination South. We have incidentally learned that they have published about four hundred and fifty different works, all of an evangelical and denominational character. Your committee would therefore recommend to this Association, and the churches of which it is composed, as well as Baptists generally, to patronize this institution by purchasing their publications, and likewise making direct donation to the institution, that their facilities of usefulness may be increased so that our denominational works may be so increased in number and cheapness, that every Baptist may possess all of our standard denominational works.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. E. SUMNERS, *Chairman.*

[C] REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee, whose duty it was made to report on this subject, beg leave to say :

That, in their judgment, this is a crisis in the history of the Temperance Reform. Now is *the time* for *action* ; for well regulated, united, decisive action. Much good, we are happy to say, has already been accomplished ; much yet remains to be done. Writing and talking are now almost out of place ; *action* must come in more prominently and do its mighty work ; the action of our churches and ministers, and all the friends of our beloved cause—the cause of God and man. Let it no longer be said that a few office-seeking demagogues succeed in palming on an enlightened republic laws and enactments alike subversive of our rights, and destructive to our peace. Let it no more be said that those who grant the power to the few have no right to grant it to the many. In view of what is justly considered an oppressive feature in the present Code, touching the license law, we would respectfully submit the following resolutions, viz :

1. That we give no man our suffrages, to legislate for us, who is known to be in favor of the present license system.

2. That our votes and influence be in favor of any man, *in other respects competent*, who is in favor of either the Alabama or Maine Liquor Law.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. WILKES, *Chairman.*

[D] REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee, on account of the silence of our churches on this subject, although requested at the last meeting of the Association to send up

reports from which information might be obtained, are unable to present anything like a statistical report of the Sabbath Schools operations within our bounds. It is to be feared that this failure on the part of the churches to comply with the request alluded to, is but too marked an evidence of a want of interest in this important enterprise. We are happy to state, however, that there are some exceptions to this case. A few of the churches are becoming aroused to a sense of duty in this respect. Some have, for years, nourished and carried on schools; others have organized them since your last annual meeting. When properly viewed, this branch of our labor presents a most interesting, and should be, inviting, field to every christian, and especially every godly father and mother. Are we directed by the word of God to "train up a child in the way he should go," with the precious and encouraging promise that "when he is old he will not depart from it," and yet unwilling to engage in this work? When, too, in addition to the teachings of Divine Revelation, we are convinced from observation of the great benefits arising from it.

Numbers of our youth are growing up in comparative ignorance of the doctrines and teachings of the Bible, and are, therefore, much more subject to be led into error, and to embrace pernicious, and, often, fatal systems of religion; which, if not causing their eternal ruin, may be the source of much trouble and grief in after years. The experience of many can testify to the truth of this.

Your Committee would earnestly recommend to all the churches a serious and prayerful consideration of this subject, if they would prosper and be blessed. And we would also recommend to your body the necessity of urgently soliciting every church within your bounds to send up, annually, a statistical report on this subject. Therefore we suggest to the Association the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That each church in union with this Association, be again requested to send up an annual report, as to whether or not it has a Sabbath School in operation; and if so, the number of pupils, teachers, &c.; and, also, that the Pastors and Deacons be requested to move *early* and *earnestly* in this work.

Respectfully submitted.

F. M. LAW, *Chairman*.

[E.] REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

Your Committee, charged with the report on this subject, take great pleasure in commending the efforts being made by the various societies for the spread of the Bible, both at home and abroad. From the report of the American and Foreign Bible Society, for the current year, we learn that their collections are increasing; and in view of this they will be able to do more for the general diffusion of the Word; and that translations into new dialects are contemplated.

From the aspects in the political world changes are almost daily taking place, and new fields opening up for future missions. When we consider the impossibility of salvation without the light of Divine Truth, and that the Word is the chief medium of the Spirit, operating on the human heart, who for a moment can doubt that it is the duty of christians to endeavor with increased diligence to improve the opportunities thus presented! But

we must not go to Africa, or China, to look for destitution. Families are to be found within the limits of our much favored country without that word which is able to make them wise unto salvation. To supply destitution of this kind, and also to promote the general spread of the Word, the Alabama Baptist Bible Society was formed. At present they have one agent in the field, the Rev. J. D. Williams, who is energetically engaged in forming auxiliary societies. The parent society proposes to its auxiliaries to return one-half the funds contributed, in Bibles. The advantage of this plan is that while it secures Bibles for home distribution, it gives the parent society funds to meet the demands of other fields of destitution. With this view, your Committee cannot close their report without urging each church in the bounds of the Cahaba Association to form an auxiliary society. To impress this subject more forcibly on the attention of both pastor and people, they offer the following resolutions :

Resolved, That we request every Minister within the bounds of this Association to present this subject to the people of his charge, and to organize a society auxiliary to the Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

Resolved That each church organizing such a society be requested to state in their annual letter, the amount raised for said purpose, and also the number of Bibles and Testaments distributed.

Respectfully submitted.

W. S. BARTON, *Chairman*.

[F] REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

The committee on Documents report that they find that brother J. Wilmur has been ordained to the gospel ministry by the Selma church. Also brother A. J. Seale by the Salem church, and brother F. M. Law licensed by the Selma church. No other matters demand attention.

[G] REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your committee on Domestic Missions report :

That a growing interest is felt in the religious world on the subject of Missions, and both Foreign and Domestic Missions are claiming a large share of the attention of christians in every portion of christendom, their energies being put forth in good earnest, and cheering success is crowning their labors. "The wilderness and solitary places are made glad;" "the desert is made to blossom as the rose;" all the parched grounds to send forth streams of water.

The little stream, that twenty-five years ago was scarcely visible, winding its meandering way through the churches of Alabama, has, even to the astonishment of the friends of the cause who were most sanguine, swollen to a mighty river, bearing on its bosom the prayers and contributions of the majority of God's people in the Baptist denomination. Instead of missionary societies formed by a few individual members of churches, whole churches are becoming, as they ought to be, missionary societies. But, while much has been done much remains to be done.

A new feature in the work of Domestic Missions has recently been presented. The Chinese are flocking to our western shores by thousands in

search of gold, and the Board have received this movement as an indication of Providence, which should prompt an immediate and enlarged effort on their part to furnish those heathen, on our shores, with the bread of life. Our worthy brother, J. L. Shuck, who labored eighteen years in China, was employed by the Board and sent to occupy that golden field. He is now upon the ground, engaged in the glorious work of preaching the gospel to those idolaters on our own continent. He has already met with many to whom he preached in China.

We have many destitute fields of interest in our midst, and on our western frontier. We have also an interesting class of people in our whole southern country that have claims upon us. An interest in the religious welfare of our colored population is felt in many of our churches, and considerable effort is put forth to improve their moral condition. In the absence of any statistical information we are unable to judge of the amount of good that has been effected.

Your committee beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches composing this Association to be liberal as God has prospered them, and aid with their temporal means the Southern Board in carrying out their plans for the evangelization of the destitute in our beloved country.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. G. McCRAW, *Chairman*.

[H.] REPORT ON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF THE BLACKS.

This is a subject of vast and increasing importance, especially to the South. It is one that has claimed and received the profound and prayerful attention of many of our best men. It is calling forth the energies and favor of all the evangelic denominations of the entire South. The attention already bestowed upon it has resulted in great good to this portion of our population, in the elevation of their moral condition.

We are of opinion, that the best means to be employed for their religious instruction is to send the Missionary among them to preach the gospel, and to enlighten the mind in the use of all the means of grace which he may be able to use to advantage. This Association, within her bounds, has made a small beginning in this work. We would respectfully recommend, therefore, that they would enlarge their operations and persevere in this good cause.

JOHN S. FORD.

[J.] REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Received for Minutes,	\$53 55
“ “ Associational purposes,	37 00
“ “ Collection on Sabbath,	46 80
“ “ Bible Cause,	57 80
“ “ Mt. Pleasant Church, Tuscaloosa,	5 10
“ from the Colored Members for For'n African Mission,	— —
Total,	\$200 25

WM. N. WYATT, Treasurer.

1853.

*In account with Cahaba Association. Dr.*October 17th, To Cash received of Finance Committee, \$342 34
*Cr.*December 4th, By Cash paid State Convention, \$291 94
" " " " " E. A. Blunt, Treas'r Ala. B. Society, 41 15
" " " " " John E. Sumners, as Clerk, 20 00
" " " " " " " " as Missionary, 25 23
" " " " " " " " for Print. Minutes, 54 00

\$342 34*Marion, Ala., October 16, 1854.*WM. N. WYATT, *Treasurer.*

[K] REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report :

The subject of Foreign Missions should be one of deep interest to every Baptist-heart. God honored the Baptist churches of Great Britain in making them the instrument of reviving the spirit of Foreign Missions among christians of all denominations. But this is not all. He has peculiarly blessed our churches for entering upon this duty to which He himself prompted them; and just in proportion to their devotion to this good work has been the measure of their success abroad, and the extent of their increase at home. No fact in the history of the denomination is established by a greater amount of evidence than this.

The churches of Alabama have done their fair proportion in sustaining our missionaries in the distant regions of Africa and China. It must be admitted however that the churches of this Association are doing less—far less than they are capable of doing in this good work. Our zeal and strength have never yet been developed, and we little dream of what noble things are within the compass of our ability.

Shall this state of things continue? Your committee are persuaded that the churches of the Cahaba Association are prepared to answer this question in the negative. We trust that a better day is coming—a time when all will be consecrated to the glory of God—a time when the testimony of the Apostle concerning the church of Macedonia will be equally true of every church of this Association—"I bear them record that to their power, yea and beyond their power, they were willing of themselves."

When the state of things thus indicated shall exist in our midst we may, with full assurance, ask for the descending influences of the Holy Ghost. And we may confidently look for the rapid approach of that period, in the moral history of our race, when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God. Then, and not until then, may we intermit our efforts and our supplications; for not until then will the ruins of the apostacy be repaired, and our mission on earth accomplished. H. TALBIRD, *Chairman.*

MARION, ALA., October 1st, 1854.

A REPORT

Of nine months missionary labor among the Colored people, to the Executive Board of the Cahaba Association. J. H. De Votie, President.

Dear Brethren: Under your appointment I commenced a mission to the

black population within the bounds of your Association on the first Sabbath in January last, to which I was to devote half my time during the present year.

THE PORTION OF COUNTRY OCCUPIED.

As you saw fit to give no direction as to what portion of the field I should labor in, I felt that the nature of my mission required that I should preach, as far as I was able, to the most destitute. I have therefore spent almost all my time in the prairies, some fifteen miles south and south-west of Marion, ranging within five miles of Newbern, east, nearly to the Cahaba river.

LABOR PERFORMED.

I have not been able to do much in the way of preaching, except on Sabbath days. I have preached at four stations and six plantations, and to about a thousand persons. I have preached forty-two sermons, catechised the congregation five times, delivered three lectures and two exhortations, baptized seventeen persons and rode 800 miles.

PROSPECTS OF THE MISSION.

The mission, so far as I have been able to extend it, has met with a cordial reception both on the part of the servants and owners. It is true it was opposed in one neighborhood where I introduced it, yet I am glad to say that the opposition lay mostly with the overseers, and not so much with the proprietors.

The labor of the Missionary in this work, in many places, would be greatly facilitated and enlarged if houses for public worship were erected. The want of these advantages, where I have labored this year, has materially effected both the extent and success of the mission.

If houses can be erected where the negroes may be congregated, one Missionary will be able to accomplish as much, and perhaps more, than four or five would preaching at the plantations. If the mission is continued, I am satisfied houses will be built for that purpose. One has already been erected.

I think I will be able to raise at least \$100 within the little scope, where I am preaching, for the support of the mission another year. Two of the patrons have promised \$45 for next year.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN S. FORD.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Cahaba Baptist Association to Corresponding Associations—

DEAR BRETHREN:—Allow us, by our delegates, to offer you the assurance of our unabated love. It is our earnest prayer that God will cheer your hearts with the evidences of his favor, and make you a blessing to our lost and perishing world.

Through the kind providence of our heavenly Father we have been permitted to assemble in this, our thirty-seventh anniversary meeting. In contemplating the way in which we have been brought, we are constrained to admire the wisdom and goodness of God. We humbly trust that he has bestowed upon us the precious boon of eternal life through Christ; and we are led to hope that he has kindled upon the altar of our hearts that sacred

flame which will never be extinguished. These blessings we did not seek for ourselves, but when we were cast out and ready to perish in our blood, He sent them to us by His word and Spirit. But God saw fit to employ men as his instruments in imparting these blessings to us. We feel, therefore, a corresponding obligation resting upon us to impart them to others. It becomes us to strive with more singleness of heart to win our fellow men to the knowledge of the truth. We must be more liberal in our alms, and more earnest in our prayers for the descending influences of the Holy Spirit.

While, therefore, we offer you the expressions of our unabated love and christian fellowship, we affectionately invite you to strive with us for a more entire consecration of ourselves to the work of saving men through our Lord Jesus Christ. We entreat, dear brethren, an interest in your prayers.

May God give you peace and that joy which passeth understanding.

THE BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH,

AS ADOPTED BY THE
CAHABA ASSOCIATION.

I. *Of the Scriptures.*—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the centre of christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. *Of the True God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God; whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III.—*Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of satan and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

IV.—*Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death. Being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V.—*Of Justification.*—That the great gospel blessing which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification; that justifica-

tion consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we may have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every blessing for time and eternity.

VI.—*Of Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made by all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII.—*Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII.—*Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he originates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel; is the foundation of christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX.—*Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X.—*Harmony of the Law and Gospel.*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability, which the scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI.—*Of a Gospel Church.*—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops, or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XII.—*Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.*—That christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its purifying power; that it is prerequi-

site to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII.—*Of the Christian Sabbath.*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV.—*Of Civil Government.*—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

XV.—*Of the Righteous and the Wicked.*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI.—*Of the World to Come.*—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

*Received of Wm. S. Miree, Clerk of the Cahaba Association,
fifty-five dollars for printing twelve hundred copies of the Minutes
for the year 1854.*

DENNIS DYKOUS.

Marion, Alabama, November 22, 1854.



STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES COMPOSING

CHURCHES,	COUNTIES.	MINISTERS IN PASTORAL
Bethel.....	Bibb.....	J. W. McCullough.....
Mt. Zion.....	Bibb.....	H. P. Griffin & Jas. W. McCullough
Hepsaba.....	Perry.....	J. W. McCullough.....
Pisgah.....	Perry.....	Wm. L. Cochran.....
Pilgrim's Rest.....	Perry.....	Calvin J. Crews.....
Friendship.....	Perry.....	Jabez F. Brazell.....
Oakmulgee.....	Perry.....	W. Wilkes.....
Shiloh.....	Perry.....	W. L. Cochran.....
Providence.....	Perry.....	John S. Ford.....
Mt. Eden.....	Perry.....	W. H. Carroll.....
Concord.....	Perry.....	S. R. Freeman.....
Liberty.....	Dallas.....	John Dennis.....
Selma.....	Dallas.....	A. G. McCraw.....
Fellowship.....	Perry.....	H. P. Griffin.....
Pine Flat.....	Perry.....	.....
Fellowship, Brush C.	Perry.....	John S. Ford.....
Siloam.....	Perry.....	.....
Mt. Pleasant.....	Perry.....	S. R. Freeman.....
Sardis.....	Perry.....	.....
Hopewell.....	Perry.....	J. H. DeVotie.....
Union.....	Perry.....	C. J. Crews.....
Union Town.....	Perry.....	L. L. Fox.....
Antioch.....	Greene.....	W. H. Carroll.....
Af. Baptist Ch.....	Mobile.....	.....
Salem.....	Greene.....	W. S. Barton.....
Mt. Pleasant.....	Tuscaloosa.....	James A. Toole.....
Newbern.....	Greene.....	R. Holman.....
Bethsaida.....	Greene.....	J. E. Sumners.....
Mt. Hebron.....	Greene.....	J. P. Thompson.....
Macedonia.....	Greene.....	J. E. Sumners.....
New Hope.....	Perry.....	Not given in Letter.....
Cahaba.....	Dallas.....	T. G. Freeman.....
TOTAL.....	.....	.....

NOTE—I find in the list of Members from Fellowship Church, Brush by Letter.

THE CAHABA ASSOCIATION, FOR 1851.

SUPPLEMENT

	Baptized	Received by Letter	Communicated	For	Personal	Total	Minute Fund	Association Fund	Total Fund	African Missions	
.....	2	.....	.....	1	42	1 00	50	1 50	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47	1 50	1 00	2 50	.....	.....
.....	2	.....	.....	1	22	1 50	1 00	2 50	.....	.....
.....	1	4	2	1	2	145	3 00	2 00	5 00	.....
.....	4	2	1	.....	.....	1 00	1 00	2 00	.....	.....
.....	2	.....	5	.....	2	28	1 00	50	1 50	.....
.....	8	4	5	3	5	204	1 50	1 50	3 00	.....
.....	24	2	6	2	2	132	1 50	2 00	3 50	.....
.....	1	1	1	.....	1	204	3 00	2 00	5 00	.....
.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	33	1 50	1 50	3 00	.....
.....	3	4	12	2	1	1	148	2 00	1 00	3 00
.....	2	1	6	1	1	130	2 00	2 00	4 00
.....	8	23	14	2	2	1	245	3 00	2 00	5 00
.....	1	8	2	1	1	68	1 50	1 50	3 00
.....	8	3	11	.....	2	46	1 00	1 00	2 00	.....
.....	37	3	8	2	1	200	3 00	1 00	4 00
.....	39	8	20	6	3	3	661	4 00	6 00	10 00
.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	78	2 00	50	2 50	.....
.....	3	15	6	2	58	2 00	1 00	3 00
.....	20	7	1	1	195	4 25	4 25	50 00
.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	54	1 00	1 00	2 00	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	25	.....	1 25	.....
.....	2	1	3	2	2	1	53	1 00	1 00	2 00
.....	
.....	94	.....	.....	.....	.....	435	2 00	.....	2 00	.....
.....	8	1	1	2	76	1 50	1 50	3 00
.....	26	6	1	5	.....	176	2 00	2 00	4 00	.....
.....	4	.....	.....	.....	5	45	1 50	1 00	2 50	.....
.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	48	1 00	.....	1 00	.....
.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	1 00	.....	1 00	.....
.....	4	15	3	1	52	1 50	1 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	.....	2 00	.....	.....
.....	304	75	138	40	10	37	3669	55 03	7 50	90 50	\$50 00

Creek, 2 by recantation, which has been placed in the line of those recived

